REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Favorable reconsideration of this application, in light of the present amendments and following discussion, is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-7 are pending. By this Amendment Claims 1, 2 and 7 are amended. Support for the amendment to Claim 1 can be found in the specification at least at page 5, lines 15-16 and page 7, lines 21-29. Support for the amendment to Claim 2 can be found at page 9, lines 21-24. No new matter has been added.

The Office Action rejects Claims 2 and 7 under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph. Claims 2 and 7 are amended to obviate this objection by clarifying the features recited therein.

The Office Action rejects Claims 1-7 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) over USP 5,725,210 to Yamaguchi et al. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Before considering the rejection under 35 U.S.C. §102 it is believed that a brief review of the subject matter of independent Claim 1 would be helpful. In this regard, independent Claim 1 is directed to a gaming machine. A gaming board includes at least one winning hole. A prescribed number of balls is paid out as the ball falls into the winning hole. The gaming board includes at least one color and/or at least one pattern. A display unit displays images of a variable display game. A single game of the display game starts out with a plurality of symbols being displayed variably and ends with the stopping of the variable display of a plurality of symbols. A display unit is disposed on a reverse face of the gaming board and is configured to display at least one color and/or at least one pattern corresponding to the at least one color and/or the at least one pattern of the gaming board. At least a part of the gaming board behind which the display unit is disposed is transparent.

Yamaguchi et al. does not disclose a gaming board including at least one color and/or at least one pattern and a display unit configured to display at least one color and/or at least

4

one pattern corresponding to the at least one color and/or the at least one pattern of the gaming board as in amended independent Claim 1.

The gaming machine of Claim 1 provides a dynamic display and high quality images without limiting the display area by having units or apparatus located on the gaming board. The gaming machine provides more exciting Pachinko by providing various falling routes for the launched ball. This allows a player to enjoy the game for a long period of time.

The image displayed on a display unit and the at least one color and/or at least one pattern on the gaming board can be integrated to give a player an impression of a large gaming board and to make the game more exciting for the player.

In Yamaguchi et al., a picture 18 is generated by a display on the liquid crystal display. The removable game board 3 is installed in front of the liquid crystal display and a baseboard constituted of a sufficiently transparent board material is used to avoid disturbing the liquid crystal display when viewing it from the front. See column 4, lines 7-15.
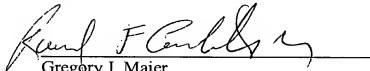
The dependent claims are allowable for at least the reasons discussed above as well as for the individual features they recite. Withdrawal of the rejection of the dependent claims is respectfully requested.

For the foregoing reasons, it is respectfully submitted that this application is now in condition for allowance. A Notice of Allowance is earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner deem that any further action is necessary to place this

application in even better form for allowance, the Examiner is encouraged to contact the

Applicant's undersigned representative at the telephone number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,

OBLON, SPIVAK, McCLELLAND,
MAIER & NEUSTADT, P.C.

Gregory J. Maier
Attorney of Record
Registration No. 25,599

Raymond F. Cardillo, Jr.
Registration No. 40,440

Customer Number

22850

Tel: (703) 413-3000
Fax: (703) 413 -2220
(OSMMN 03/06)
GJM/RFC/MB/rac:pch

I:\ATTY\MB\24's\244255US\244255US_AM DUE 9MAY07.DOC

6